

REAR ADMIRAL ROBERT H. ENGLISH
U. S. NAVY, DECEASED

Robert Henry English was born in Warrington, Georgia, on January 16, 1888, son of William C. and Mary Cornelia (Fitzpatrick) English. He was killed in a plane crash near Boonville, California, on January 21, 1943.

Prior to receiving his appointment to the U. S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland, from his native state in 1907, he attended Warrington High School and the Georgia School of Technology at Atlanta. As a Midshipman he won his letter in baseball. Graduated on June 2, 1911, he was commissioned Ensign on March 7, 1912, and subsequently advanced in rank, attaining that of Rear Admiral, to date from May 8, 1942.

Following graduation from the Naval Academy in 1911, he joined the USS CONNECTICUT, and in November 1914 transferred to the USS TONGAH for submarine instruction. Designated a submariner, he reported in March 1915 aboard the USS D-3, and a year later, March 18, 1916, assumed command of that submarine. He was serving in that capacity when the United States entered World War I, April 6, 1917. Relieved of command of the D-3 in June of that year, he was ordered to the New London Ship and Engine Company, Groton, Connecticut, for duty in connection with the construction and tests of engines of the submarines O-3 through O-10. He was in charge from September 1917, of fitting out the USS O-4, at the Fore River Shipbuilding Company, Quincy, Massachusetts, and became Commanding Officer of that submarine upon her commissioning on May 18 of that year.

"For distinguished service as Commanding Officer of the USS O-4 ... he was awarded the Navy Cross. The citation cites him "particularly for his heroic conduct upon the occasion of the explosion of the USS O-5. At the risk of his own life he entered the after battery compartment, which was filled with smoke and debris from the exploding batteries, and rescued Lieutenant Commander G. A. Trever, USN, from being burned to death."

Detached from command of the O-4 in May 1919, he next served in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., and while there had further duty as a member and Recorder of the Torpedo Tactics Board, which convened on October 4, 1920 at the Department. In May 1921 he assumed command of the USS FULTON and a month later that became secondary duty, his primary assignment being Commander Submarine Division FIFTEEN. He transferred in July 1922 to command of Submarine Division EIGHT, Atlantic Submarine Flotillas, and continued to serve in that capacity until March 1924.

Duty until July 1926 in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Navy Department, preceded an assignment afloat as Navigator of the USS MISSISSIPPI. Detached from that battleship in June 1929, he returned to the United States and was an Instructor in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Physics at the Naval Academy. He remained there until May 1932, and in July of that year became Commander Submarine Division EIGHT.

Between August 1934 and May 1937 he had a third tour of duty in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, after which he served a for a year as Executive Officer of the USS PORTLAND. In May 1938 he joined the staff of Commander Submarine Force, United States Fleet, as Chief of Staff and Aide, and in April 1939 was ordered to return to the United States for an assignment, which extended to June 1941, in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations. While there he was designated Navy Department Representative on the ~~Maine Memorial~~ Committee.

He was in command of the USS HELENA at Pearl Harbor, Territory of Hawaii, when the Japanese attacked the Naval Base there on December 7, 1941. During the attack, the HELENA was hit by a torpedo which exploded in her forward engine room. Despite the force of the explosion and numerous casualties which resulted from it, she was the first cruiser in the fleet to strike back. He continued to command the HELENA until March 1942, when he reported as Commander Submarine Squadron FOUR, with additional duty commanding the Submarine Base, Pearl Harbor. On May 14, 1942, he became Commander Submarines, U. S. Pacific Fleet, and was serving in that capacity at the time of his death, January 21, 1943.

He was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Medal for "exceptionally meritorious service as Commander, Submarines, Pacific Fleet..." The citation continues: "In that position of great responsibility, Rear Admiral English directed the operations of his command with marked skill and resourcefulness, as a result of which heavy damage was inflicted on enemy ships and shipping. His example of tenacity and devotion to duty was in large part responsible for the high degree of combat efficiency attained by his command."

In addition to the Navy Cross and the Distinguished Service Medal, Rear Admiral English had the Mexican Service Medal; the World War I Victory Medal, Submarine Clasp; the American Defense Service Medal, Fleet Clasp; and was entitled to the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal; and the World War II Victory Medal.

A destroyer, the USS ENGLISH (DD 696) has been named in his honor.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Eloise Walker English of Atlanta, Georgia, two daughters and a son. Mrs. English's present address is 4445 Lowell Street, N. W., Washington, D. C. One daughter, Mrs. Thomas D. Davies, served during World War II as an officer in the Women's Naval Reserve.

NAVY DEPARTMENT

IMMEDIATE RELEASE
PRESS AND RADIO

FEBRUARY 6, 1943

LAST RITES FOR REAR ADMIRAL R. H. ENGLISH, U.S.N.

Funeral services for the late Rear Admiral Robert H. English, U.S.N., of Warrenton, Georgia, will be held at the Fort Myer(Virginia)Chapel at 1 p.m., Tuesday, February 9, 1943. He will be accorded full military honors and burial will be in Arlington National Cemetery. Captain R. D. Workman, Chaplain Corps, U.S.N., is to officiate.

Honorary pallbearers will be Rear Admiral O.C. Badger, U.S.N.; Rear Admiral B.H. Bieri, U.S.N.; Captain W.D. Chandler, U.S.N.; Captain J.C. Byrnes, U.S.N.; Captain Alfred G. Zimmerman, U.S.N., and Captain R.M. Hinckley, U.S.N.

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NAVY DEPARTMENT

IMMEDIATE RELEASE
PRESS AND RADIO

JANUARY 22, 1943

LARGE TRANSPORT PLANE OVERDUE

A large transport seaplane operating for the Naval Air Transport Service is now more than 24 hours overdue on a flight from Pearl Harbor to San Francisco. There has been no radio contact with the plane since early yesterday morning when it circled in the vicinity of San Francisco. Fog and bad weather prevented a landing in the area at that time. A search of wide land and sea areas has failed as yet to reveal any sign of the transport. A crew of 9 and 10 Naval officer passengers were aboard the plane.

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NAVY DEPARTMENT

IMMEDIATE RELEASE
PRESS AND RADIO

JANUARY 23, 1943

TRANSPORT SEAPLANE STILL MISSING

Continuing widespread search for the missing transport seaplane, operating for the Naval Air Transport Service on a flight from Pearl Harbor to San Francisco, has failed to reveal any trace of the aircraft up to the present time.

The reported passenger list indicates that the following Naval Officers were aboard the missing plane:

Rear Admiral Robert H. English, U.S.N. (Usual residence: Warrenton, Georgia. His wife, Mrs. Eloise Walker English, now resides at 4445 Lowell Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.)

Captain Robert Holmes Smith, U.S.N. (Usual address: 307 Hammond Street, Rocky Mount, North Carolina. His wife, Mrs. Frances B. Smith, now resides at 120 Memorial Drive, Cambridge, Massachusetts.)

Captain Robert E. Thomas, Civil Engineer Corps, U.S.N. (Usual address: 614 Whitman Street, Rockford, Illinois. His wife, Mrs. Helen L. Thomas, now resides at 2828 40th Avenue, W, Seattle, Washington.)

Captain Donald C. Godwin, U.S.N. (Usual address: 505 W. Main Street, Williamston, North Carolina. His wife, Mrs. Hazel M. Godwin, now resides at 4626 7th Avenue, Los Angeles, California.)

Commander John J. Crane, U.S.N. (Usual address: 1907 Miami Street, Toledo, Ohio. His wife, Mrs. Imogene St. Clair Crane, now resides at 103 Bella Vista Way, Vallejo, California.)

Commander Francis L. Black, U.S.N. (Usual address: 1861 Moore Street, San Diego, California. His wife, Mrs. Anna G. Black, now resides at 7 Dana Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts.)

Commander William G. Myers, U.S.N. (Usual address: 2709 Nicholas Avenue, S.E., Washington, D.C. His wife, Mrs. Susan Gladding Myers, now resides at 1327 Monroe Street, N.E., Washington, D.C.)

Lieutenant Commander John O. R. Coll, U.S.N. (Usual address: 625 E. Maple Street, Jeffersonville, Indiana. His wife, Mrs. Margaret Coll, now resides at 3133 Front Street, San Diego, California.)

Lieutenant Commander George R. Stone, U.S.N. (Usual address: 303 Marion Avenue, Big Rapids, Michigan. His wife, Mrs. Jean Richards Stone, now resides at 925 Kingstone Avenue, River Forest, Illinois.)

Lieutenant (junior grade) Edna Owella Morrow, U.S. Navy Nurse Corps. (Usual address: 45 S. Greenwood Street, Pasadena, California.)

The crew of nine is listed as:

Robert McNair Elzey, (Captain), 229 Lenox Street, Palo Alto, California.

Orvan K. Judd, (First Officer), 2414 California Street, Berkeley, California.

John R. Maynard, (Second Officer), 508 Lincoln Avenue, Alameda, California.

George H. Aabel, (Third Officer), 1255 Crane Street, Menlo Park, California.

Leo A. Mackota, (First Engineer), 418 Bosworth Street, San Francisco, California.

John J. Eagan, Sr. (Second Engineer), Apartment 211, 916 Union Street, Alameda, California.

Clarence P. Thompson, (First Radio Officer), 1477 Navy Street, San Leandro, California.

George W. Angus, (Second Radio Officer), 1462 Trestle Glen Road, Oakland, California.

John G. Hill, (Flight Steward), 1100 Cordilleras Avenue, San Carlos, California.

(Biographies are available in Reference Section, Office of Public Relations. Photographs available in Pictorial Section.)

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NAVY DEPARTMENT

IMMEDIATE RELEASE
PRESS AND RADIC

MARCH 22, 1943

REAR ADMIRAL ROBERT H. ENGLISH AWARDED DISTINGUISHED
SERVICE MEDAL POSTHUMOUSLY

The Secretary of the Navy awarded the Distinguished Service Medal to Rear Admiral Robert H. English, U.S.N., posthumously in a ceremony held at his office today.

The decoration was presented to Rear Admiral English's widow, Mrs. Eloise Walker English. His two daughters, Ensign Eloise English, Women's Reserve, U.S.N.R., who is on duty at the Navy Department and Miss Cornelia English, a student at Sweet Briar (Virginia) College, were present at the ceremony. A son, Robert H. English, Jr., also survives Rear Admiral English. He is a senior at the Georgia School of Technology.

Rear Admiral English, who made his home at Warrenton, Georgia, was Commander, Submarines, Pacific Fleet, at the time of his death. He lost his life in a plane crash in the San Francisco area, January 2, 1943.

The citation accompanying his award states:

"For exceptionally meritorious service as Commander, Submarines Pacific Fleet. In that position of great responsibility, Rear Admiral English directed the operations of his command with marked skill and resourcefulness, as a result of which, heavy damage was inflicted on enemy ships and shipping. His example of tenacity and devotion to duty was in large part responsible for the high degree of combat efficiency attained by his command."

(Biographies of Rear Admiral English available in Reference Section. Photographs of presentation ceremony available in Pictorial Section.)

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DATE **JAN 24 1943**
p.

Missing Transport

Chief of Our Pacific Sub Fleet On Lost Plane

Rear Admiral Robert H. English, commander of the Pacific Fleet submarine force, and nine other naval officers—including one commissioned nurse—were aboard the missing Pearl Harbor to San Francisco naval air transport, it was revealed yesterday by the Navy in Washington. In addition, the transport carried a crew of nine.

As the search for the missing ship was being pressed, the Navy issued the following names of those aboard:

ADMIRAL ENGLISH, Warrenton, Ga.; wife, Mrs. Eloise Walker English, Washington, D. C.

CAPTAIN ROBERT HOLMES SMITH, commanding officer of a naval vessel; address, Rocky Point, N. C.; wife, Mrs. Frances B. Smith, Cambridge, Mass.

CAPTAIN ROBERT E. THOMAS, Navy Civil Engineer Corps; director, Pacific Division, Bureau of Yards and Docks; address, Rockford, Ill.; wife, Mrs. Helen L. Thomas, Seattle, Wash.

CAPTAIN DONALD C. GODWIN, former professor of naval science, University of California; attached to Twelfth Naval District, San Francisco; address, Williamston, N. C.; wife, Mrs. Hazel M. Godwin, 4626 Seventh ave., Los Angeles.

COMMANDER JOHN J. CRANE, address, Toledo, O.; wife, Mrs. Imogene St. Claire Crane, 103 Bella Vista way, Vallejo.

COMMANDER FRANCIS L. BLACK, attached to staff of commander in chief, Pacific Fleet; address, San Diego; wife, Mrs. Anna G. Black, Cambridge, Mass.

COMMANDER WILLIAM G. MYERS, commanding officer of a naval vessel; address, San Diego; wife, Mrs. Susan G. Myers, San Diego.

DIVISION OF
PRESS INTELLIGENCE
1526-14th St., N. W.

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Times (R)
Los Angeles, Calif.

DATE
p.

PH
JAN 24 1943

Rear Admiral English on Missing Navy Plane

Hopes Dim in Search for Air Transport, Loss of So Many Officers Heavy Blow

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 23.—Whether the plane brought a war hero or a missing man, the search for the Pan-American transport plane, which disappeared Thursday, is continuing today when a Navy official announced tonight that was all. Today families of the missing Navy officers and civilian crew members of the city. Later a second



Rear Admiral English

Capt. Donald Godwin

the big seaplane shared the suspense Navy headquarters has turned over to Army officers at known for three days. Only today the scene investigation proved were the names of those missing the rafts had belonged to the ing made public. That the loss of so many high ranking officers and

World-Telegram (I)
New York City
Circ.
FEB 1 1943
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19 Bodies Found In Plane Wreckage

By DAN McGUIRE,

United Press Staff Correspondent.

UKIAH, Cal., Feb. 1.—The bodies of 19 persons including that of Rear Admiral Robert E. English, commander of the Pacific fleet submarine force, were recovered today from the charred wreckage of a huge navy seaplane which crashed 11 days ago in a rocky canyon 20 miles southwest of here.

The plane had been missing on a flight from Honolulu to San Francisco since Jan. 21.

The plane was burned and the wreckage scattered over a wide area. The Navy said it struck a 2000-foot ridge.

The crash occurred 140 miles north of San Francisco. Naval authorities believed the pilot was trying to find Clear Lake, 45 miles away, to make an emergency landing.

The Victims.

Besides Admiral English, the victims included:

SMITH, CAPT. ROBERT HOLMES, Cambridge, Mass.

THOMAS, CAPT. ROBERT E., Seattle.
GODWIN, CAPT. DONALD C., Los Angeles.

CRANE, COMDR. JOHN J., Toledo.

BLACK, COMDR. FRANCIS L., Cambridge.

MYERS, COMR. WILLIAM G., Washington, D. C.

COLL, LT. COMDR. JOHN O. R., Jeffersonville, Ind.

STONE, LT. COMDR. GEORGE R., Big Rapids, Mich.

MORROW, LT. (j. g.) EDNA OWELLA, naval nurse, Pasadena, Cal.

ELZEY, ROBERT McNAIR, captain of the ship, Palo Alto, Cal.

JUDD, ORVAN K., first officer, Berkeley, Cal.

MAYNARD, JOHN R., second officer, Alameda, Cal.

MAKOTA, LEO A., first engineer, San Francisco.

EAGAN, JOHN J., JR., second engineer, Alameda, Cal.

THOMPSON, CLARENCE P., first radio engineer, San Leandro, Cal.

ANGUS, GEORGE W., second radio officer, Oakland, Cal.

HILL, JOHN G., flight steward, San Carlos, Cal.

George W. second radio officer,
Oakland, Cal.
HILL, JOHN G., flight steward, San Carlos, Cal.

photos

headquarters has turned over to Army officers at
were the names of those missing. Investigation proved
ing made public. The Coast Guard and probably had
That the loss of so many high ranking officers was a severe blow was easy to discern through the terse statements by Navy headquarters. Three captains, three commanders and two lieutenant commanders is a heavy toll in the fighting forces.

NAMES ANNOUNCED

Names of 10 naval officers, including Rear Admiral English, and of nine crew members who were not naval personnel, who were aboard, were announced by the Navy.

The officers:

- Admiral English, whose home is at Warrenton, Ga.
- Capt. Robert Holmes Smith, Rocky Mount, N.C.
- Capt. Robert E. Thomas, director of the Pacific division of the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Rockford, Ill.
- Capt. Donald C. Godwin, attached to the 12th Naval District, Williamston, N.C. His wife, Mrs. Hazel M. Godwin, lives at 4626 Seventh Ave., Los Angeles.
- Comdr. John J. Crane, Toledo.
- Comdr. Francis L. Black, attached to the staff of the commander-in-chief, Pacific Fleet, San Diego.
- Comdr. William G. Myers, Washington, D.C.
- Lieut. Comdr. John G. R. Coll, Jeffersonville, Ind.
- Lieut. Comdr. George R. Stone, Big Rapids, Mich.

WOMAN ON BOARD

One woman was aboard—Lieut. (j.g.) Edna Owella Morrow, a Navy nurse assigned to duty in the South Pacific.

The plane was last heard from Thursday morning, when it circled the bay area unable to land because of weather conditions after a flight from Honolulu.

row, Navy nurse assigned to duty in the South Pacific; 45 S. Greenwood St., Pasadena.

The nine members of the crew:
Robert McNair Elzey, captain, Palo Alto.



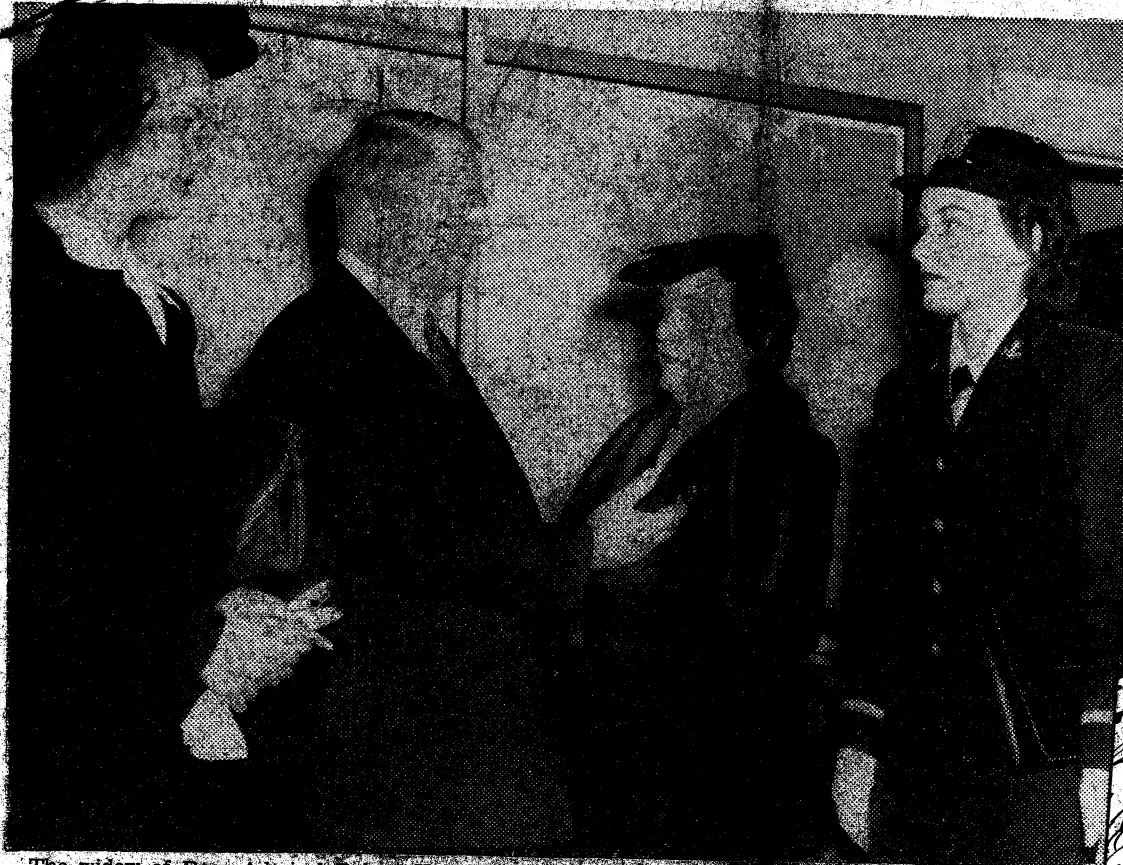
Lieut. Edna Owella Morrow
(AP) Wirephoto

- Orvan K. Judd, first officer, Berkeley.
- John R. Maynard, second officer, Alameda.
- George H. Aabel, third officer, Menlo Park, Cal.

Star (D) _____
Anniston, Ala.

MAR 24 1943
DATE

Admiral's Widow Receives His D. S. M.



The widow of Rear Admiral Robert H. English here wears the Distinguished Service Medal posthumously awarded her husband for meritorious service as commander of submarines of the U. S. Pacific Fleet shown in Washington at the presentation ceremony here (left to right): Miss Cornelia English, daughter, Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox, Mrs. English and another daughter, Ensign Eloise English, of Waves. Admiral English, who made his home at Warrenton, Ga., was killed in a plane crash near San Francisco.